



In Reply To:  
1616.083

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Lewistown Field Office  
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument  
920 NE Main Street, P.O. Box 1160  
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160  
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/ldo>



January 2008

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS) for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative F) presented in the Draft RMP/EIS released in October 2005. The Draft RMP/EIS was available for a 180-day review period ending on April 26, 2006. Both the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are available on the Monument RMP website at:

[http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewistown\\_field\\_office/um\\_rmp\\_process.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewistown_field_office/um_rmp_process.html)

Chapter 5 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains the public comments received from individuals, agencies, organizations and groups on the Draft RMP/EIS and BLM's responses to the comments. As a result of public comment and internal review, Alternative F has been modified and is now considered the Preferred Alternative for management of BLM land in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is subject to a 30-day protest period.

Any person who participated in the Monument RMP planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may protest approval of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS and the land use plan decisions contained within it (see 43 CFR 1610.5-2) during the 30-day review and protest period. The protest period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the Federal Register. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to this Proposed RMP/Final EIS may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to publication of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage.

To be considered "timely," your protest, along with all attachments, must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. There is no provision for an extension of time. Although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. The protest period ends 30 days after EPA's Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. Press releases on the actual date ending the protest period will be sent to local and regional media contacts and placed on the Monument RMP website.

A letter of protest must be filed in accordance with the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(1). Protests must be in writing. Electronic mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the email or faxed protest an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and emails to [bhudgets@blm.gov](mailto:bhudgets@blm.gov).

If sent by regular mail, send to:

Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Attention: Brenda Williams (WO-210)  
P.O. Box 66538  
Washington, D.C. 20035

If sent by overnight mail, send to:

Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Attention: Brenda Williams (WO-210)  
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075  
Washington, D.C. 20036

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Proposed RMP being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process, or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the Montana/Dakotas BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite documents. A protest that merely expresses disagreement with the Montana/Dakotas BLM State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period and after the Governor's consistency review, the Record of Decision and the Approved Plan (RMP/ROD) will be prepared. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed RMP under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. The Approved Plan will include the appeal process for decisions that can be appealed to IBLA. For the Monument RMP, this includes decisions on road designations and airstrips, the number of special recreation permits for river outfitting, the group size for boaters, the 2-night camping limit at Level 2 sites, and the motorized watercraft restrictions on the Missouri River. Any significant change made as a result of a protest will be made available for public review and comment before it is approved.

#### **Freedom of Information Act Considerations/Confidentiality**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

I thank the individuals and organizations who participated in this planning process. Your interest is appreciated. I hope your involvement will continue as we move forward to implement and monitor the plan and manage the public land in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "June Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

June Bailey  
Field Manager